NUM. XIV.

THE PLAIN DEALER.

——*Par pari referemus.* CICERO.

FRIDAY, MAY 8. 1724.

LITTLE Follies, which we but Smile at in Perſons who are Indifferent to us, give us Sorrow and Pain, when obſerv'd in thoſe we Love. *Patty Amble* is of late become of ſuch Importance, that I watch her with a Tenderneſs, that Intereſts me in all her Actions. For this Reaſon, I am frequently contriving to interrupt Her, when She lets her Tongue run Races, that out gallop her Reaſon. Bnt I always loſe my Labour: My Operations upon this *Goſſip* are like the *Winds* upon *Fire*; I may blow till my Breath fails, inſtead of *putting her out*, I make her *Burn* but the *faſter*!

I HAVE ſucceeded however, in what I fail'd to do *My-ſelf*; by the Aſſiſtance of *Ned Volatile*. But not to aſſume more Triumph than is due to me, the Stratagem I made Uſe of, was found out by *Shakeſpear*, before me. That Poetical Politician taught his *Richard* the Third, among the reſt of his ſurprizing Victories, to conquer a *Woman*'s *Tongue*; but it was by Aid of one of his *Drums*, which no ſooner Beat up, but the Enemy was put to Silence.

WE Shall now enjoy ſome Freedom, and may all Talk in our Turns; for *Ned*, and the *Coquet*, will be play'd off at Pleaſure. When either of 'em grows Troubleſome, we ſhall let looſe the *Rival*, and like *Sulphur* and *Salt-Petre*, one ſhall blow up the other.

PATTY AMBLE came Yeſterday finely dreſs'd to the *ASSEMBLY*; ready to burſt with Impatience for our Admiration of her Fancy. She kept us Silent, above an Hour, while She was ſo kind as to open to us the Labours and Difficulties, She had for fourteen Days been *fatigu'd* by, before She cou'd unite ſo elegantly all her trifling Varieties. From her Head to her Foot, She oblig'd us with the Minutes of her whole Fortnight Hiſtory. It was not to be expected, that in the midſt of ſo much Buſineſs, She cou'd be at Leiſure to conſider, That after we had approv'd both the Price, and the Colour of her *Damask*, it was of no great Edification, at leaſt to the *Male* Part of the Company, to know what *Shop* She bought it at. But happy had it been cou'd She have found *Reſt* ſo ſpeedily! Nothing like it I aſſure you; we were alſo to learn, in what Places She *miſs'd* it. Yet for my own Part, I *muſt ſay*, I was particularly *edify'd* by her critical Remarks, on certain Differences to be found, betwixt buying on *Ludgate-Hill*, or of the Mercers about *Covent-Garden*.

BUT Ill Fare ſay I, that unlucky Word *Garden*! It put her fatally in Mind of a Fat freſh colour'd *Country Lady*, who cou'd never be perſwaded to make Viſits, in any thing but *Garden Silks*, tho' her Arms were as big as a *Rolling-Stone*! Then the unfortunate Word *Fat*, brought as aptly to her Remembrance, poor old *Dimpley* the laughing Staymaker, that us'd to Work for her *Grandmother*, when firſt She was Married! And never *lac*'d our *Patty*, when She was a Girl, but She made her *very Neck ake* with twiſting it to look at him. At length, after infinite Diſappointments and Dangers, She arriv'd ſafe at her *Hoop-Petticoat*; where being ſeiz'd with a *Fit* of Gratitude for the Parliament's *ſtrange good Nature*, and extraordinary care of *Trade*, She was *thinking to turn WHIG*, becauſe they had taken off the *Duty*, that lay ſo heavy upon *Whalebone*!

WELL As to that however, She was not altogether ſo Poſitive. But there was one Thing of more Conſequence, that She was moſt abſolutely *convinc'd of*; She wou'd venture any *Wager*, that not one Perſon in the Company, cou'd be able to *Gueſs*, what her *Ground Bruſſels Head* had coſt her a Yard? nor where, nor by what particular *odd* Accident, She had been ſo Happy as to *light of it*! The Dutcheſs of *M——r* took Coach in a Fright, the very Moment She ſaw it, to buy up the *Remnant*. But ſince ſhe was ſure we *cou'd not Gueſs*, ſhe wou'd tell us the Price *her ſelf*; and not name one Farthing more or leſs than it really Coſt her; ſhe wonder'd for her Part, how Women cou'd be *ſo Silly*! For what ſignify'd after all, the little *Vanity* of being thought *ſkill'd in good Penny-worths*! If ſhe had a mind to be *Vain*, ſhe need only believe, what was ſaid to her at the *Opera*, by a *certain Duke*, who muſt be nameleſs! But one Thing his Grace was pleas'd with, that ſhe *might* venture to ſpeak of and it was *that Fancy of her own upon her Fan*! Lord! ſhe remember'd too he obſerv'd, That there was ſomething in a Lady's *Fan*, much *Genteeler in its Uſe*, than any part of the *Men*'s *Equipage*!

IT Was juſt in this Place, that I took Pity of the Company for I thought I *felt their Heads Ake*! So tipping the Wink on *Ned Volatile*, he ſtarted up from his Chair, with ſuch a *Stare* of Amazement, that one wou'd have thought he was Apprehenſive the Houſe had been falling! The *Coquet* ſtarted too, and holding her Tongue till ſhe cou'd look round her, *Ned* with wonderful Agility ſnatch'd the *Nick* of that Interval; and reſolving at once to bear down all Oppoſition, broke in upon her like a Torrent with this ſudden Exclamation, 'Ah! *Madam! Madam*! What a *Trifle* is a *Fan*, in Compariſon with a 'Feather! I ſhou'd be ſorry to diſſent from any Opinion *you* are fond of; but pray let your Reaſon be 'Judge of this Difference! I have *one*, in my Hat 'here, that all the *African Oſtriches*, clubbing Tails, 'to produce but the Fellow of it, might be *moulting* 'theſe thouſand Years, and all to no Purpoſe! Dear 'Madam do but look on it! The nearer you exa-'mine it, the more it will Charm you! With all your '*Wit* now and your *Induſtry*, my Life to one of 'your *Lappits*, it puzzles you theſe three Hours to 'Gueſs

[Price Two Pence]

'*Gueſs where I Bought it?* I can't, I am afraid, be altogether ſo Poſitive, that you won't hit the *Price* of it; but upon my Honour, if you *ſhou'd* i'll acknowledge it to a Farthing. There's *ſome Pleaſure* in converſing on theſe *critical Affairs*, with ſo nice a Judge as *you*, *Madam*! Why here's a *Coat*, I have Worn this five Weeks, and not one in fifty has had the *Taſte* to take Notice, that all the Wool it was made of, is *true unmix'd Spaniſh*! You were ſaying ſomething about *Whalebone*? 'Tis a uſeful Commodity indeed, as you *Ladies* have manag'd it, but what are *Hoop Petticoats*, to the *Woollen Manufacture*!"

'FOR Heaven's ſake take Breath cry'd the *Coquet*, (ſwiftly Fanning herſelf; and half burſting with a *Windyneſs*, from Suppreſſion of meanings,) do but *hear*, what I was going to ſay to you?" "*Never*, *never*, reply'd *Ned*, he can never be a good Subject, who ſubmits to hear any thing to the Prejudice of the *Woollen Manufacture*. Mark the wonderful Progreſs of this ſilly Thing call'd *Wool*, but from the *Sheep's* Back to *mine!* Take notice in the firſt Place of theſe very few of the *many Myſteries* which depend on this ſo humble a Material! There's the *Grazier* for Example; and the *Shepherd*, and the *Shearer*, and the *Sorter*, and the *Comber*, and the *Carder*, and the *Spinner*, and the *Dyer*, and the *Scowerer*, and the *Fuller*, and the *Weaver*, and the *Napper*, and the *Preſſer*, and the *Stretcher*, and the *Carrier*, and the *Factor*, and the *Draper*, and the *Taylor*, and the *Packer*, and the *Merchant*, but mentioning the Word *Merchant*, I muſt ſtop a little in my Way; and lay open to you all the Wonders and Advantages of *Navigation*! I ſhall inform you very clearly, and diſtinctly, and under their proper Heads and Diviſions, to what different and remote Corners of the Univerſe, *you* Madam, are oblig'd for all thoſe Ornaments which are adorn'd by you! I will begin like a good Builder, and examine firſt your *Foundation*. That glittering Pair of *Shooes*, which we can but ſee the pointed *Tips* of, had a long and tireſome Journey to the prettieſt Foot in the *World*, from three moſt diſtant Parts of it. The Silver in their Lacing, youare endebted for to *America*. Now, you wou'd ask me as I go along, whence that new Quarter of the Globe took this name of *America*? I ſhall come to it in its Turn; but firſt you muſt be made acquainted with the Fortunes and Adventures of its chief Diſcoverers from *Europe*; *Spaniſh*, *Engliſh*, *French*, *Portugueſe*, and *Hollanders*. And for clearing Things more effectually to your Apprehenſion I ſhall with as much Brevity as poſſible, trace the different Originals and Hiſtories of all theſe Nations. But ſpeaking juſt now of *Silver*, I am preſented by that Means, with a very fortunate Opportunity to Sail away with you for *Peru*; and when once I have got you there, we ſhall never want Amuſements ſuited to the *Mercury* of your Spirit. For in the firſt Place Madam, I will carry you to the Bottom of thoſe *Mines*, which have enrich'd and embroil'd all *Europe*. And becauſe I know you are a Lady of moſt *unſatisfy'd Curioſity*, I will now Anticipate in ſome Meaſure this Improvement I deſign for you; for I will enumerate in their proper Order the Subterraneous Inhabitants of the whole *mineral Kingdom*. There is *Gold* Madam, and *Silver*, and *Copper*, and *Tin*, and *Quickſilver*, (your Favourite, Madam!) and *Iron*, and *Lead*, and *Antimony*, and *Marchaſites*, and *Lapis Calaminaris*, and *Pyrites*, and *Vitriol*, and *Allom*, and *Brimſtone*, and *Sal Gem*, and *Chryſtal*, and *Marble*, and *Millſtone*, and *Alabaſter*, and *Bolus*, and *Ochre*, and *Talc* Madam! And of all theſe I will immediately explain to you the Growth, and the Operations; and their ſtrange and diſtinct Uſes, whether in *Science* or in *Trade*! And afterwards I will take Occaſion from this wonderful Proviſion of Materials for our Induſtry, to demonſtrate beyond denial how needleſs it is for *Man*, *Woman*, or *Beaſt*, to live Idle, and unuſeful. But *Firſt*, (for I won'd be Regular) I muſt return to your *Shooes*. Wh I was, in their ſecond Diviſion, to particularize, w the *Silk*, which they are cover'd with. I dare n be Poſitive at this *Diſtance* whether it is *Chriſti* or *Eaſt-Indian*; but I will tell you immediate when I have examin'd it a little *nearer*.

NED Was riſen from his Chair, and had level his Eye at her Foot, when ſhe made her Advanta of the lucky Opportunity which this *Pauſe* of afforded her; and recovering her loſt Ground, new'd her Charge with a Vigour, that was fatal her Opponent.

'*BRAVELY Shot*! cry'd ſhe Laughing, but I am n ſo eaſily to be *fear'd* I aſſure you. I will be time enou to liſten to ſuch wiſe Harangues as yours, after have talk'd my ſelf weary. A moſt *polite* Ente tainment indeed you are deſigning us! With you greaſy Generation of *Scowerers* and *Wool-Combers* The Aſſembly will be better pleas'd with the *intri cate Prettineſſes*, which are to be learnt in the Art o *Lace-making*. Oh! the dexterous Diſpoſition of th *Cuſhion*, and the *Pattern*, and the *Pins*, and th *Bobbins*!

SHE Set us all to work, but had no ſooner entangle us, among her *Threads*, and her *Bobbins*, when ſh flew on a ſudden, out of that Subject to another and from that to a third. She led us up, ſo fa back, that we were preſent at her Mother's *Labour* and after having been very Merry at her *Chriſtening*, ſhe took us along with her to her Nurſe's on *Banſted Downs*. From thence to her Father's Country-Houſe beyond *Canterbury*. After this we liv'd with her four Years at a *Boarding School* in *Hackney*; and returning thence with Pleaſure, had the Honour of her Company to the *very firſt Play that ever ſhe ſaw in her Life*; nay, ſhe permitted us to take Part with her, even in the *Maſquerade*; and at the *Opera*. But the worſt of it was that, before we were well ſeated, we were drawn away in her *Aunt's old Coach*, and carry'd down, the Lord knows whither to make Butter and Cheeſe in *Warwickſhire*. Yet in this Place, to do her Juſtice ſhe kept us to our no ſmall *Emolument*, for we grew as *good Houſewives* as her *Aunt* was. We all learnt to *Brew* and *fatten Hogs*, and *feed Poultry*. But what I found moſt Reliſhable were, certain *ſavoury* Inſtructions, ſhe was ſo good as to communicate; inſomuch that I who but yeſterday Morning cou'd almoſt as eaſily have made a *Horſe*, as a *Pudding*, am to Day a Man of Learning as well in *Diſhes* as their *Garnitures*. I can Read if I pleaſe when I meet with a Perſon of *good Taſte*, a long luxurious Lecture on *Farces*, *Bisks*, and *forc'd Meats*, *Marinades*, *Puptoons*, and *Olios*, *Soops*, *Sauces*, *Ragouſts*, *Puffs*, *Paſtry*, and *Pickles*, *Tarts*, *Cheeſecakes*, and *Cuſtards*, *Jellies*, *Conſerves*, and *Marmalades*, *Slops*, *Waſhes*, *Pomatums*, *Cold Creams*, and *Cordial Waters*!

BUT what was ſtill more obliging, not content to have enrich'd us with this profound Knowledge! ſhe was *Liberal* enough to talk on with ſuch unceaſing Rapidity, that we had no Time to *thank* her, till at length, ſhe ſaw *Ned Volatile* was preparing to take his Turn; and roſe, and flutter'd her Fan, and ſcudded out of the ASSEMBLY; but we heard her Tongue running all the way down Stairs, asking Queſtions of the Servants and anſwering them her ſelf; and for any thing that I know, ſhe may be *Talking to this Time*, while I am penning the Narration!

I Am my ſelf too a great *Talker*, only I ſometimes love to *liſten*; and nothing is ſo ſtrange to me as that ſince theſe *Pratlers* are thus tranſported, but by too much Vivacity, that very Vivacity ſhou'd not teach 'em to know *when they grow Troubleſome*! I ſometimes fancy them like *Horſes*, which ſhutting their Eyes in their Swiftneſs paſs the Bounds of their Courſe, and and never ſtop till they are beat backward by ſome Wall which thep run their Heads againſt.

Printed for *J. Roberts*, in *Warwick-Lane*. Where *Letters* and *Advertiſements* are taken in.